



Zoeller files complaint in recordkeeping scam

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Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller has filed a complaint relating to a corporate filing scam that businesses were warned about in January.

Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson, who alerted businesses of the scam in January, said in a statement Friday that Zoeller filed the complaint against Steven Jon Fata, The Mandatory Poster Agency, Labor Law Posting Service and Corporate Record Services.

She said the complaint was filed for "incurable deceptive business practices" and violations of the Indiana Deceptive Consumer Sales Act and the Indiana Deceptive Commercial Solicitation Act.

Her office issued the warning after several businesses in the state received an official-sounding letter that appeared to have come from the Indiana secretary of state's office seeking a \$125 fee for recordkeeping and processing annual minutes.

Lawson's office said the letter referred to state law out of context to give it an appearance of legitimacy and included a "return by" date.

In some cases, businesses receiving the letter noticed that the return address would send mail to a UPS Store box in Speedway.

"Protecting Hoosiers from financial scams is one of the top priorities of this office," Lawson said in the statement on the complaint filing.


"I appreciate the quick reaction of business leaders to help us prevent Hoosiers from falling victim to the scam," she said. "I thank Attorney General Zoeller for filing this action to recover losses for those Hoosiers who did not get our scam alert and to bring these alleged crooks to justice."

"Self-serving fraudsters who waste the money of Hoosier businesspeople by misrepresenting themselves as being affiliated with government agencies will find themselves squaring off against a real government, the state of Indiana, which has no tolerance for the misuse of its good reputation nor the defrauding of its citizens," Zoeller said in the statement.

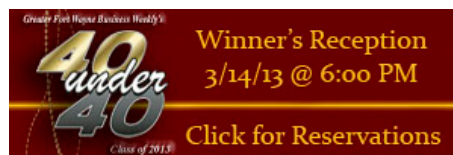
More than 100 businesses fell for a similar scam in 2008, which resulted in the prosecution of a case in Marion County that year by the Indiana attorney general's office.

The announcement of the complaint filing connected to the latest scam said a business services help line can be reached at (317) 232-6576 to check the authenticity of any mailing from the Indiana secretary of state's office.

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